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By: Connie Larson

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Andrew John Whitworth

Int'l. Application No.: PCT/GB99/04425

Int'l Filing Date: 24 December 1999

For: A PTFE TUBE

Examiner:

Art Unit:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A PTFE tube comprising external roots and peaks, which tube is obtainable
- 2 from a non-convoluted tube having an original wall thickness  $W_0$  and an internal diameter ID by a
- 3 process in which a region of the tube is thinned to provide external convolutions with a root wall
- 4 thickness  $W_1$ , characterized in that the convoluted PTFE tube has an improved resistance to
- 5 permeation of greater than 7.6% by comparison with the non-convoluted tube, the comparison being
- 6 made between tubes of (i) equal nominal bore ID; and (ii) equal weight of PTFE per unit length.